

LATIN AMERICA 2025-2030: UNCERTAINTY AND RECONFIGURATION

12 TRENDS THAT WILL GENERATE
CHANGE

Methodology note

OBJECTIVE OF THIS FORESIGHT EXERCISE

The purpose of this exercise is to identify trends expected to generate political and sociocultural change in Latin America in the medium term (2025–2030).

WHAT IS STRATEGIC FORESIGHT AND WHAT IS IT FOR?

Strategic foresight is an analytical approach used to think and act systematically when addressing a development challenge, political decision or potential conflict. It examines how an issue may evolve over the medium and long term and anticipates uncertainties that could influence its trajectory.

Foresight exercises support reflection on strategic choices by exploring how a problem may develop and how different actors' interventions may shape outcomes. This process strengthens the identification of constraints, risks and opportunities linked to decisions that must be taken.

IDENTIFICATION OF TRENDS THAT GENERATE CHANGE

Strategic foresight draws on multiple methodologies that vary by institution and context. For this exercise, two toolkits were used: the United Nations' horizon scanning method for strategic planning; and the strategic trends and Delphi survey developed by the RAND Corporation for foresight analysis.

METHODOLOGICAL STEPS USED IN THIS FORESIGHT EXERCISE

FIRST PHASE

PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION OF TRENDS AND FACTORS DRIVING CHANGE THROUGH INFORMATION CURATION

The first phase focused on identifying the main political and sociocultural trends shaping Latin America. Information curation was conducted to develop an initial list of 10 to 15 regional trends. This process included a review of recent academic literature, media analysis, prospective reports from regional and international institutions (ECLAC, Latinobarómetro, European Union, United Nations, among others), and risk assessments produced by think tanks and rating agencies.

This phase identified the trends, the factors driving them and their levels of uncertainty. The findings were summarised in a preliminary document, reviewed internally within Oxfam, and then shared with the experts participating in the Delphi consultation. The survey underwent internal validation before being distributed to the expert panel.

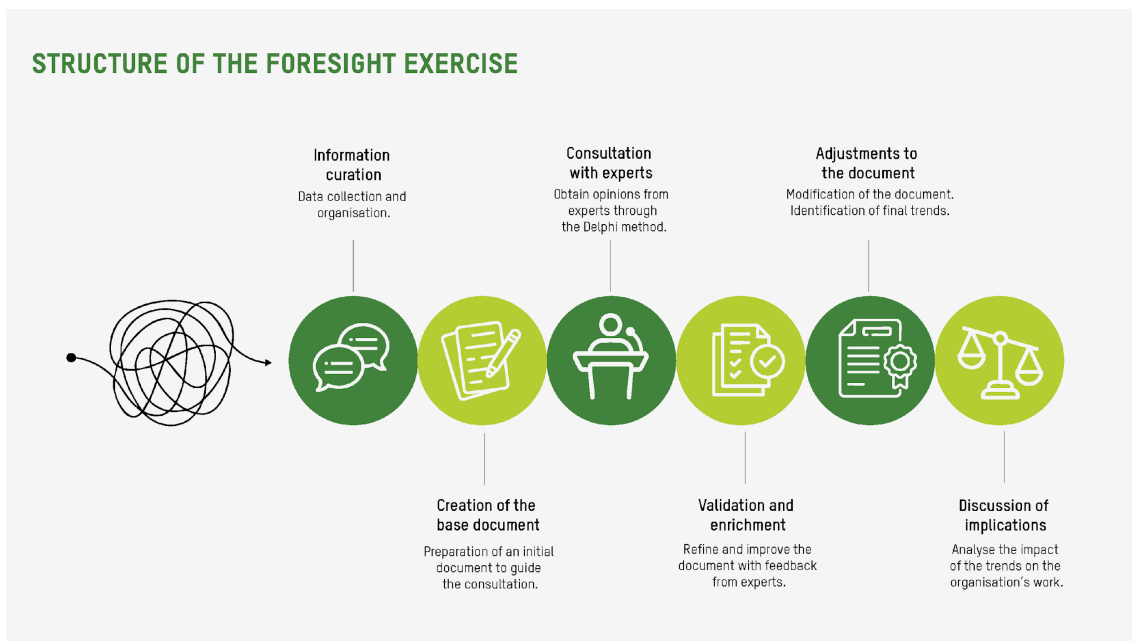
SECOND PHASE

EXPERT VALIDATION OF TRENDS AND FACTORS THAT GENERATE CHANGE THROUGH A DELPHI CONSULTATION

The preliminary identification of trends and factors that generate change was validated by diverse Latin American perspectives through a Delphi expert consultation. This methodology was designed by the RAND Corporation to build consensus through remote and asynchronous rounds of consultations³.

One round of Delphi surveys was conducted using a digital questionnaire completed by 42 regional experts. The process generated quantitative responses to closed questions and qualitative assessments on the proposed topics. Both were incorporated into a synthesis document.

This information guided the revision and preparation of the final document on the trends and factors expected to shape political and sociocultural change in Latin America between 2025 and 2030.



NOTES

1. United Nations Development Group – DOCO. “Applying foresight and alternative futures to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework”.
2. An example of this exercise can be found in: “Europe’s Societal Challenges: An analysis of global societal trends to 2030 and their impact on the EU”. 2013. Rand Europa - ESPAS
3. See:
<https://www.rand.org/pubs/commentary/2023/10/generating-evidence-using-the-delphi-method.html>

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